

Necessarily, most Europeans derive their image of what the United States is like from the portrayal given in their own press. The London *Times*' dispatch ("From Our Own Correspondent") on the award of the Fermi Prize to Robert Oppenheimer is a fair sample of routine treatment: "A great wrong was done to a distinguished American when his security clearance was withdrawn ten years ago in circumstances that have long shamed many of his fellow

Abroad

countrymen, and the award was clearly intended as a gesture of vindication. . . . It was long delayed. More than the Hiss case, the Oppenheimer affair in retrospect has all the senseless tragedy of a generation on trial. It has been compared with the Dreyfus affair . . . and the comparison is not too far strained. . . . His public degradation appeared to be a victory for defense and security demands offensive to humanity and science. He and his colleagues had grown up in an invigorating period of scientific internationalism. . . . Their generation came to an abrupt end during the McCarthy period when apprehension over the hydrogen bomb became a national crime. . . . The honor afforded him also expunges part of the ugly past."

NAIROBI

Tribes, Borders, Bullets

The regions inhabited primarily by the Somali include, along with what is now Somalia, the eastern part of Ethiopia and Kenya's vast Northern Frontier District. The Somali aim at a united Somali nation, and warfare is already under way in the entire border area. A Somali "Liberation Army" has been active for some while inside Ethiopia, and recently opened up operations in the NFD. The Ethiopians have sent in large units, including tanks and planes. A fortnight before independence (Dec. 12) the Kenya Government moved its crack military formation—known for two generations as the King's, now the Kenyan, African Rifles—into the NFD. Somalia has turned politically toward Moscow, which has promised political support plus military aid. Although the leaders of all these African countries, before independence, denounced existing African boundaries as "imposed arbitrarily by European imperialists," they are as loath as any other rulers to give up acreage, once they are in the saddle.

BAGHDAD

Henceforth, No Christians!

No one, not excepting its own members, knows exactly where the "Ba'ath party" came from or what it wants. Its influence has spread rapidly throughout the Middle East, especially in Iraq and Syria. Its program is said to stress Arab unity, socialism and devotion to Islam, but opposition to Nasser, whose own program is based on the same three points. A fourth Ba'ath plank has gone unreported in the West: fanatical persecution of Christians. This has been

especially brutal in Iraq, where the Christian community (about 100,000 persons, mostly poor villagers) had long been tolerantly accepted. A good many of the "Communists" jailed, tortured and hanged by the Ba'ath junta that overthrew Kassem last winter were in reality Christians guilty of nothing other than loyalty to their faith. Women as well as men have been tortured severely enough to cause death. In the Christian villages, the entire population is compelled to watch and applaud executions, and priests have been arrested and tortured for praying over the dead victims.

ISTANBUL

Sea Wall Needed

On December 1 the *Völker Freundschaft* ("Peoples' Friendship") was steaming through the Bosphorus on its way from the Mediterranean to Bulgaria's much publicized Black Sea resort area. Five of the East German passengers jumped overboard in mid-passage. They were picked up by Turkish fishermen and taken to the Turkish police, of whom they asked asylum. On November 15, twenty-one East European passengers (Russian, Czech, Polish and East German, mostly professionals) had similarly jumped from the Russian ship *Pobeda* ("Victory") and been given asylum in Turkey.



Punch

BIRMINGHAM

Venusian ETA

The first convention of the newly formed British Unidentified Flying Object Association was held here last month, with more than fifty delegates present, including several from the new university chapters at Oxford and Cambridge. Greetings came from fraternal groups in Europe, Japan, the United States and Australia. It was reported that approximately one hundred "authentic" UFO sightings are currently being made every year in England. Convention papers discussed the hypothesis that beings from distant space founded the Inca Empire and destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. According to one speaker, the Russians have received a message from Venusians to announce their landing on earth in 1985. Detection of a space ship fleet was said to have triggered a recent full alert of the Soviet missile force. Like most of their fellows in other nations, the English UFOers almost unanimously assume that the beings from space are both wise and beneficent.

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